

Serial No. 10/779,892
Docket No. 40500.0117

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (previously presented) A system for facilitating a change in distance between objects, said system including

a head component configured to attach to one of said objects;

a wire having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said wire is configured to mate with said head component, said wire having a first interface along at least a portion of said wire, wherein said first interface includes a sawtooth configuration; and,

a cap configured to mate with said second end of said wire, said cap having a second interface component including an inverse sawtooth configuration on an inner surface of said cap such that said cap is configured to translate along said wire with certain of said inverse sawteeth sliding over certain of said sawteeth.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said head component includes a tip, cutting threads and fastening threads.

3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said head component includes a tool attachment configured to mate with a tool head.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured to translate along said wire in only one direction.

5. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said object.

6. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said object surface.

7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap includes a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

8. (original) The system of claim 1 further including a tensioner for applying tension to said wire.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

9. (previously presented) The system of claim 8, wherein said tensioner includes a cannulated rod configured to receive said wire, said tensioner further includes gears having a third interface component configured to mate with a said second interface component of said wire to apply tension to said wire.

10. (original) The system of claim 8, wherein said tensioner includes a gauge to determine the amount of tension.

11. (previously presented) A system for the fixation of a bone fracture having a first surface and a second surface, said system including:

a head component configured to attach into said first surface of said bone;

a flexible wire having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said flexible wire is configured to mate with said head component; and,

a cap configured to mate with said second end of said flexible wire by translating along said flexible wire over a surface which restricts reverse translational movement.

12. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said flexible wire is configured to extend through said second surface of said bone and said cap is configured to mate with said flexible wire against said second surface of said bone to exert tension on said flexible wire, thereby compressing said first and second surfaces of said bone against each other.

13. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein a surgical plate is configured to mate with said second surface of said bone.

14. (previously presented) A cap device having an outside surface and an inside surface, said inside surface including an interface component and said outside surface including cutting threads, wherein said cap device is configured to receive a wire having a first end and a second end, wherein said first end of said wire is configured to mate with a head component, said wire having a first interface along at least a portion of said wire, wherein said first interface includes a sawtooth configuration, wherein said head component is configured to attach to one of said objects, said cap device configured to mate with said second end of said wire, said cap having a second interface component including an inverse sawtooth configuration on an inner surface of said cap such that said cap is configured to translate along said wire with certain of said inverse sawteeth sliding over certain of said sawteeth.

15. (original) The cap device of claim 14, wherein said cap includes a substantially flat top surface to minimize said cap from protruding above the surface of said object after said cap is inserted into said object.

16. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein said cap includes a center hole for receiving a wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

17. (previously presented) A method for facilitating a change in distance between a first and second surface, said method including:

providing a head component mated with a flexible wire having a first interface component;

inserting said head component into said first surface;

extending said flexible wire through said second surface; and,

translating a cap having a second interface component over said first interface component of said flexible wire such that said first interface component restricts reverse translational movement.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said inserting step includes mating a drill over a driver head of said head component to facilitate drilling said head component into said bone.

19. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said head component includes cutting threads and mating threads such that said inserting step includes cutting new threads into said object using said cutting threads and mating said new threads with said mating threads.

20. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein excess wire beyond said cap is removed.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 17, further including exerting pressure between said first and second surfaces by exerting tension on said flexible wire.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Serial No. 10/779,892
Docket No. 40500.0117

protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire and additional openings for facilitating expansion of said cap.

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire, an additional opening, and a cut in a planar surface of said cap which extends to from said center hole to said additional opening for facilitating expansion of said cap.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said cap is further configured with threads on an outside surface of said cap to facilitate rotating said cap into said bone, wherein said cap is configured with a substantially flat end to minimize said cap from protruding from said bone surface, a center hole for receiving said wire, an additional opening and a cut in a planar surface of said cap which extends to from said additional opening to said outside surface of said cap for facilitating expansion of said cap.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said wire is a flexible wire.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said cap is configured with a spring to apply pressure to said cap.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY